

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /035 W

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SEECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8652

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USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

FOR IEA, IOR/M, STATE FOR EA

SUBJ: PRESS REACTION

FOLLOWING EXCERPTS EDITORIAL SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST NOV. 8,  
TITLED "IT MIGHT BE WORSE WITHOUT NIXON":  
QUOTE

1. IN THEIR ANXIETY TO RESOLVE A MONSTROUS DOMESTIC POLITICAL  
PROBLEM, MANY AMERICANS HAVE TAKEN UP THE CALL FOR PRESIDENT  
NIXON TO RESIGN.

2. IT IS A FACILE ANSWER THAT WOULD REALLY SOLVE NOTHING; AND  
IN ITS WAKE IT WOULD LEAVE HIDEOUSLY DANGEROUS VACUUM IN THE  
LEADERSHIP OF THE WESTERN WORLD.

3. THE CRITICAL NATURE OF THE SITUATION THAT HAS ARISEN CAN BE  
JUDGED BY LOOKING, ON THE ONE HAND, AT THE CALIBRE OF THOSE WHO  
MIGHT STEP INTO OG. NIXON'S SHOES, AND ON THE OTHER, AT THE  
BREATHCATCHING FRAGILITY OF PEACE AND DETENTE ELSEWHERE IN THE  
WORLD.

4. PERHAPS AN OUTSIDER'S VIEW CAN BEST BE SUMMED UP AS  
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"NIXON IS BETTER THAN NO NIXON."

5. THE WATERGATE STORM MIGHT HAVE BLOWN AWAY MR. NIXON'S CREDIBILITY AND SHREDDING HIS MORAL AUTHORITY IN AMERICA, BUT IT HAS NOT SO FAR TAINTED HIS COMPETENCE AS THE PRE-EMINENT LEADER OF THE WEST.

6. HOW MUCH LONGER THIS SITUATION CAN LAST IS MOOT, FOR THERE ARE SOME CRACKS IN THE IMAGE WHICH WILL ONLY WIDEN IF MR. NIXON'S DOMESTIC CRITICS KEEP UNDERMINING HIM.

7. MR. NIXON AND HIS ASSOCIATES, HOWEVER WRONGLY THEY MIGHT HAVE ACTED, HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO AN ORDEAL BY THE MEDIA THAT SHOWS BOTH THE STRENGTH AND THE WEAKNESS OF A FREE PRESS....

8. BOTH MR. NIXON AND HIS AIDES HAVE STRENUOUSLY TRIED TO DEFUSE THE RUMOURS OF RESIGNATION. HE HAS REVERSED DIRECTION MORE THAN ONCE IN THE RECENT MONTHS, BUT THERE IS LITTLE IN HIS OVERALL PERFORMANCE THAT SUGGESTS HE IS INCAPABLE OR INCOMPETENT TO CONTINUE IN OFFICE....

9. FOR NOW, AND THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, MR. NIXON IS THE ONLY PRESIDENT THAT AMERICA AND THE WORLD HAS. WE WILL ALL JUST HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH THAT SITUATION. END QUOTE.  
IZENBERG

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